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LETTER DATED 23 NOVEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to notify you of fresh violations of Iraqi airspace for purposes of reconnaissance and provocation that were committed by United States aircraft between 12 and 18 November 1992. The incidents were as follows:

12-13 November 1992

(a) Northern region: 20 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 5,500 to 7,500 metres, centred over Mosul, Zakho, Tall Afar and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 52 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 7,000 to 10,000 metres, centred over Nasiriyah, Amarah, Salman, Artawi, Qal'at Salih and Busayyah.

13-14 November 1992

(a) Northern region: 42 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 800 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 2,500 to 8,500 metres, centred over Mosul, Dohuk, Zakho, Tall Afar, Ayn Zalah and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 42 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 800 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 8,500 metres, centred over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, Chalabiyah and Busayyah.

14-15 November 1992

(a) Northern region: 24 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 1,500 to 8,000 metres, centred over Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Zakho and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: no aerial activity recorded in the area during this period.

15-16 November 1992

(a) Northern region: no aerial activity recorded in the area during this period.

(b) Southern region: 28 sorties, flown by F-4, F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 5,000 to 8,500 metres, centred over Amarah, Nasiriyah, Chalabiyah, Salman, Busayyah and Samawah.

16-17 November 1992

(a) Northern region: 26 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 4,500 to 8,000 metres, centred over Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Zakho, Tall Afar and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 37 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 4,000 to 9,000 metres, centred over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Busayyah, Qurnah, Qal'at Salih and Salman.

17-18 November 1992

(a) Northern region: 24 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 4,000 to 6,000 metres, centred over Zakho, Dohuk, Mosul, Tall Afar, Irbil and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 57 sorties, flown by F-4, F-14 and F-15 aircraft at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 3,000 to 10,000 metres, centred over Basra, Amarah, Samawah, Nasiriyah, Qurnah and Salman.

A TR-1 aircraft engaged in hostile reconnaissance of the southern region from an altitude of 20,000 metres, entering Iraqi airspace at 1217 hours and leaving at 1413 hours.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative